

## A short bio of Harold Hirsch (Harry)

Full name - Harold Heinrich Hirsch  
7, 1945

Possible date of birth - May

Harry was born in Germany and first struck by lightning when he was 8 yrs. old. He lost his hearing and was sent to a boarding school for deaf children. A year later he was struck again while playing on the Monkey Bars at the school. He regained his hearing and returned to his home. The following summer he was struck a 3<sup>rd</sup> time while crossing an open field. His parents were very concerned for his safety and for his mental state. He was becoming increasingly nervous and anxious. When ever storm clouds appeared he would barricade himself in the root cellar. They decided to send him to the United States to live with Jake Hirsch in Boone County NE. He adjusted to life on the Hirsch farm and was very happy and a hard working boy. His hearing was not good and his ears had a constant ringing and buzzing. That is probably why he did hear on approaching storm one year after his arrival in Nebraska. He was sitting on a stool out by the horse tank and focused on whittling a toy fiddle. The bolt that struck this time threw him across the tank and into the cow pasture. He jumped up and began running down the county road. He didn't stop running until he reached Beaver Creek, which was flooding out of its banks.

There was a man and a young woman in a boat and they were rescuing some of their pigs out of the flooding creek. They invited young Harry to join them in the boat and asked him who he was as they has never seen him around the area. It was then Harry realized he couldn't remember anything. Not even his name.

The man in the boat was Moonshine McSwine and the young woman was his daughter Moonbeam McSwine. They took Harry back to their isolated little cabin on a high bank above Beaver Creek. Luckily the flood did not reach the cabin but it washed away 2 hog sheds and unfortunately they lost a few pigs.

They decided to call Harry Moonstruck McSwine and happily shared their home and hearth with him. Harry became a very skilled pig wrangler but could not remember anything about his former life and for some reason he became very anxious and panicky whenever there were storm clouds. The McSwine's decided to expand the root cellar to double its original size because "Moonstruck" liked to sleep in the cellar.

After several happy years Harry one day strayed away from the cabin while searching for one of his porkers that was missing. Too late he noticed the gathering storm and high tailed back to the cabin as fast as he could go. Unfortunately, he was struck by lightening again, however; this time it brought back his memory. On a clear day he

returned to the Hirsch farm to tell them where he had been the past 3 years. They wanted him to move back to the farm but he felt compelled to dig a bigger and better subterranean dwelling about half way between the Hirsch farm and the McSwine cabin. This new home was called "Harry's Porker Palace," and at the Porker Palace only the pigs live above ground.

Some of Harry's favorite expressions -

- Darn Tooten
- You Betcha
- Natcherly
- Ah done busted ma haid
- Wal fry mah hide!
- Good golly Miss Molly
- Holy Moly
- If I had mah druthers
- Okie Dokie
- Shazam!
- Dag blast it!
- I'll be jiggered

Harry carries a jug of Kickapoo Joy Juice with him at all times. And, he takes his pet pig "Pork Chop" with him wherever he goes. He thinks Pork Chop is a good luck charm that prevents lightning strikes. However it is a known scientific fact that when you have 6 contact points with the ground you are grounded and will not be struck by lightning. Harry plus Pork Chop, connected by the leash, equals six contact points. Walla!